

AP English Language (11<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Mrs. Lynn Vance ([Lynn.Vance@cowetaschools.net](mailto:Lynn.Vance@cowetaschools.net))  
Google Classroom Code: 9kuzb7  
Summer Reading and Activities  
2017 - 2018 School Year



"Don't worry too much about math, science, or history — just make sure you get good marks in *rhetoric*."

Can you believe it is summer already? In order to prepare for the AP Language course, you will need to do a couple things over the summer. Let me start by saying that I love teaching AP English Language and Composition. I have worked hard to include a variety of texts, activities, assignments, etc., in the hopes that you will enjoy the class. AP Language is the study of rhetoric -- that means we will discuss controversial and current issues, we will debate, and occasionally we will argue. In what other class can you do that and get a grade for it?

In order to prepare for the class, I need you to do a few things. So, there is a summer assignment. Nothing terrible-- just helpful. A little summer work is very important to the AP Language program.

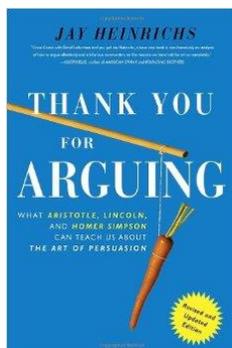
Please read all of the attached information carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand. Have a parent or guardian read the information also.

If questions or concerns arise during the summer, you may email me at [lynn.vance@cowetaschools.net](mailto:lynn.vance@cowetaschools.net). I may not check my email daily during summer break, but I will try to check it at least two times a week. Also, join the Google Classroom group – code 9kuzb7. You can ask questions on there as well. I will also post reminders.

## AP Language Summer Reading

**Summer Reading:** You will need to purchase the following books. Remember, the books are yours. So, make them yours. Write in them, highlight terms and/or rules you want to remember, have a conversation with the texts (provide commentary), connect to other texts you've read, etc. Take an active approach to reading.

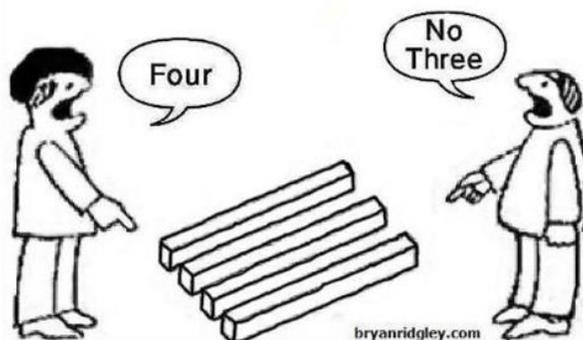
1. **READ** *Thank You for Arguing*, **Revised edition (it's blue)** by Jay Heinrichs (nonfiction). Be sure you purchase the REVISED edition with twenty-eight chapters. The first edition does not have all chapters or the Argument Lab appendix. *Thank You for Arguing* introduces you to the idea of rhetoric in a sort of Aristotle meets *Saturday Night Live* way. It offers definition and insight into the world of argument and it does so in a humorous way. You may find yourself laughing aloud at times. Many of the terms introduced in the text will be necessary to know and understand for AP Language. We will refer to this book many times throughout the year. It will be helpful to highlight terms presented in the book. Write in it; make it your own.



2. **READ** *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. (Note: There are several editions. Be sure to choose either the Fourth Edition with the foreword by Roger Angell or the newest 2017 edition with foreword by Richard de A'Morelli.)

## Summer Activity

### Argument Journal



### Composition book required.

Once a week, you should engage in an argument with your journal. The topic should be something of interest and /or concern for the week -- perhaps a prevalent topic in the news, a controversial topic, a subject brought up in a text you've read, etc. The journal is your audience and your opposition -- how will you respond to it and get it to see your side of the issue.

1. Your topic/argument must be clearly presented.
2. You should address your opposition.
3. Your reasoning/proof should be clearly expressed.
4. You should try different modes of argument as you progress through the journal -- don't be afraid to try something different, risky, challenging, etc. to get your ideas across.

(I've put a couple of examples on Google Classroom.)

Your responses do not have to be full essays. Instead, they are opinion pieces / arguments that should be about one page in length.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Due to the types of essays we will write in class, it is good to have knowledge of what's going on in the world. It is also good to have a grasp of history. We will often discuss and write on current and controversial issues. Therefore, it would be a good idea to watch the news, read the paper, or both as you have time this summer. Don't focus on gossip or issues focused on celebrities. Instead, focus on societal, governmental, and/or ethical issues.

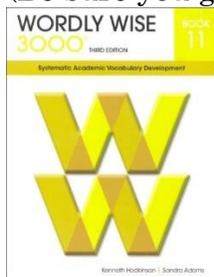
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## Now, Class Information:

**Required texts for the 2017 - 2018 school year: Please bring these with you on Day One of class. Pictures of the book covers are below.**

*Wordly Wise 3000* Book 11 Grade 11, Third Edition (You must have an unused copy of the vocabulary book as we will be writing in the book. *Wordly Wise* can be purchased online from epsbooks.com, Amazon, or another book retailer.) Barnes and Noble has been able to order this book.

*5 Steps to a 5: 500 AP English Language Questions to Know by Test Day* (Be sure you get ENGLISH LANGUAGE, not English Literature.)



**2017 - 2018 Tentative Reading List: You will need to purchase the titles we read. (I will give you advance notice as to when you will need each book. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY THEM ALL THIS SUMMER.** The list could change.)**

*In Order to Live\*\**

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

*The Scarlet Letter*

*Walden*

*Shakespeare Saved My Life\*\**

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*Angela's Ashes\**

*In Cold Blood*

*Slaughterhouse-Five*

Yeonmi Park

Frederick Douglass

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Henry David Thoreau

Laura Bates

Harper Lee

Frank McCourt

Truman Capote

Kurt Vonnegut

\*Time permitting \*\*Waiting for approval.

Again, **don't buy all the books this summer** (unless you want to read them all).

Sometimes the schedule has to be adjusted. Sometimes I ask for another book to be approved.

I want you to understand that AP English Language and Composition is a class where you will work on mastering writing, analytical, and rhetorical skills. There is not a lot of memorization work, but there is a lot of analysis and critical thinking. You will study the intricacies of language (style, rhetoric, diction, grammar, etc.). So, your summer work is preparation. Advertisers, satirists, cartoonists, politicians, and writers, use language to their advantage. You will learn how to do that too.

Well, there you have it. Summer reading, a summer activity, and the tentative class reading list. I really look forward to our AP class. I hope you do too. See you in August.

Enjoy your summer. If I have made you panic with all this information, come see me -- I'll try to calm you down. Remember, you have two months to do the summer work and we have all school year to read the list of books.

**Don't forget to join the AP Lang group on Google Classroom. The code is 9kuzb7.**